

Fall 2007

NO WORKER LEFT BEHIND

The logo for Michigan Works! features the word "MICHIGAN" in a bold, sans-serif font above the word "WORKS!". The letter "O" in "WORKS!" is replaced by a white silhouette of the state of Michigan, which is set against a dark circular background. A small trademark symbol (TM) is located at the bottom right of the logo.

(continued on page 2)

Judy Karandjeff, Executive Director • Elizabeth Thompson, Program Specialist • Marisa Saltzman, Intern

No Worker Left Behind

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Any person currently unemployed, or any person who has received a notice of termination or layoff from employment, or any employed person with a family income of \$40,000 or less may participate in the program. Participants must be at least 18 years old, must not have graduated from high school in the last two years, and must not be a full-time college student.

NWLB is a one-time offer, available on a first come, first served basis. Participants have three years to sign up for the program which began August 1, 2007. Training must be completed within four years of enrollment. Tuition of up to \$5,000 per year for two years, for a total of \$10,000 per person, is available to cover costs, including instructional costs, books, materials, fees (such as application costs, registration, and laboratory fees), and academic supportive services (counseling and career advising).

For more information about No Worker Left Behind:

Call Michigan Works! at 1-800-285-WORKS (9675), or E-mail nwlb@michigan.gov, or Visit the website at www.michigan.gov/nwlb.

Decrease in Michigan's Infant Mortality Rates

Governor Jennifer M. Granholm on September 25 announced that infant mortality rates - especially among the state's African American population - are now the lowest in Michigan history, thanks to a concerted effort on the part of state and local entities to combat the problem.

While the decrease in the overall infant death rate - 7.4 deaths per 1,000 births in 2006, down from 7.9 in 2005 is impressive, the drop in African American live births was staggering - from 17.9 in 2005 to 14.8 in 2006, Granholm said.



"Our continued investments in health care are making a critical difference in the lives of our most vulnerable citizens," Granholm said. "If we continue to make these investments, we can ensure that this progress is sustainable."

In July 2005, Granholm unveiled a blueprint to prevent unintended pregnancies, which included Talk Early, Talk Often - a program designed to offer parents a resource for talking with their middle school-age children about abstinence and sexuality issues, and Plan First, an initiative designed to increase access to family planning services. Today, more than 30,000 women are enrolled in Plan First.

Further, Granholm has continued to promote the state's effort to promote safe sleep, encouraging partnerships between state agencies who are responsible for putting important safe sleep information into the hands of young families and the Nurse Family Partnership, which is primarily responsible.

"All of these activities in concert at both the state and local levels are directly responsible for the significant drop in infant mortality rates from 2006," said Janet Olszewski, director of the Michigan Department of Community Health. "We are proud of the work we have done together to begin to curb the rates, but we need to redouble our investments to make further reductions reality."

Olszewski said continued investment in state programs that save the lives of infants is vital to ensuring that Michigan's number remains on a downward trend.

Since 2003, the governor has worked tirelessly to fund infant mortality reduction coalitions, in Berrien, Genesee, Ingham, Kalamazoo, Kent, Macomb, Oakland, Saginaw, Washtenaw, and Wayne counties, and in the city of Detroit, that collaborate on educating residents about preventing infant mortality. These coalitions developed case management projects to improve birth outcomes for women who have experienced a fetal death, a low birth weight infant, or a premature infant.

Additionally, the state's Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) - a program initiated by Granholm in 2004 in which nurses visit low-income women in their homes during their first pregnancies through the first two years of their children's lives - has been critical to the rate reduction. Today, the NFP is available in Benton Harbor, Detroit, Grand Rapids, and Pontiac.

According to national Medicaid research, it is estimated that each public dollar spent to provide family planning services saves an estimated \$3 that would otherwise be spent in Medicaid costs for pregnancy-related care and medical care for newborns.

The Michigan Women's Hall of Fame 24th Annual Awards

The Michigan Women's Hall of Fame dinner recognizes contemporary and historical women who have made a significant and long-lasting impact on Michigan and in their communities. Congratulations to this year's inductees. See www.michiganwomenshalloffame.org.

Contemporary Inductees:

JANE BRIGGS HART: Her passion for flying motivated her to join the first program to train female astronauts. Her passion for people prompted her to participate in the founding of the National Organization for Women and to work for social issues in our nation's capital.

MARY BROWN: This former state representative from Kalamazoo was the first legislator to hold hearings on key women's issues. She provided leadership on insurance, taxation, and the environment, co-chaired the Michigan Women's Assembly, and is a popular mentor.

DR. HAIFA FAKHOURI: Trained as a sociologist and educator, Dr. Fakhouri founded the Arab American and Chaldean Council, a social service agency that serves over 80,000 individuals and organizations. She was named Michiganiaan of the Year in 1999 by the Detroit News.

KATHLEEN WILBUR: Currently the VP of governmental relations and public affairs at Central Michigan University, she is an advocate of higher education funding equity and made a name for herself in state government as the first woman to lead three different departments.

Historical Inductees:

DR. GERTRUDE BUCK: This rhetorician and reformer pioneered a student-centered pedagogy as well as continuity and sequence in educational planning, while authoring eight books as a Vassar College educator.

EMMA COLE: The first female member of the Kent Scientific Institute (precursor to the Public Museum of Grand Rapids), Cole was an internationally respected botanist and chronicler of Grand Rapids area flora.

DR. CAROLYN GEISEL: Dr. Geisel, holder of three medical degrees, gave up her practice to travel the country on the Chautauqua circuit educating thousands on public health issues at the turn of the 20th century.

ABIGAIL ROGERS: As a co-founder of the Michigan Female College, Rogers instituted a classical and scientific course of study for women and fought tirelessly for their admission to the state's universities.

THE WOMEN'S HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION: This women's group, which founded Lansing's first hospital in 1896 and administered a nursing school and substantial volunteer program over the years, still serves the Sparrow Health System today.

Women's History – It's Closer Than You Think!

Don't wait for March, 2008 to learn more about the contributions made by Michigan women. There are lots of resources throughout the state. For example, Christ Church Cranbrook, in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, features the "Women's Window", a stained glass commemoration of women's contributions to religion, social services, education and the arts. Constructed in 1925-28, the window shows sixty renowned women from around the world. The twenty American women pictured include painters, poets, and women's rights advocates, including Michigan's own Anna Howard Shaw (1847-1919), who

grew up near Big Rapids, Michigan. She was a Methodist minister, a physician, and a women's suffrage advocate. She is pictured with Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton. Christ Church Cranbrook is located at 470 Church Road, Bloomfield Hills MI. For more, information call the church at 248-644-5210.

Source: <http://museum.msu.edu/museum/msgc/jun98.html>



COMMISSION NEWS

Welcome and Thank You!

Governor Jennifer M. Granholm announced in August the following recent appointments and reappointments to the Michigan Women's Commission

Donna L. Budnick of Harbor Springs, legislative services attorney for the Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Indians, is appointed to represent the general public for a term expiring July 15, 2010. She succeeds Gail J. Glezen whose term has expired.

Pamela M. Faris of Clio, community service activist, is appointed to represent the general public for a term expiring July 15, 2008. She succeeds Renee T. Farhat who has resigned.

Estelle P. Smyth of Escanaba, owner of Ideas Unlimited, is appointed to represent the general public for a term expiring July 15, 2009. She succeeds Brenda L. Jones Quick who has resigned.

Ronda E. Stryker of Portage, director of the Stryker Corporation and vice chairman and director of Greenleaf Trust, is appointed to represent the general public for a term expiring July 15, 2010. She succeeds Cheryl B. Sugerman whose term has expired.

Sally Shaheen Joseph of Flint, attorney in private practice, is reappointed for a term expiring July 15, 2010.

Patricia M. Lowrie of Okemos, director of the Women's Resource Center at Michigan State University, is reappointed for a term expiring July 15, 2010.

Alexandra S. Matish of Ann Arbor, assistant general counsel at Wayne State University, is appointed for a term expiring July 15, 2010.

These appointments and reappointments are subject to Article V, Section 6 of the Michigan State Constitution of 1963. They stand confirmed unless disapproved by the Senate within 60 days.

We thank the members of the commission who have served: Renee Farhat, Gail Glezen, Cheryl Sugerman, and Brenda Jones Quick. We enjoyed working with you and look forward to more opportunities to work together to improve the quality of life for Michigan's women.

Legislation of Interest

The Michigan Women's Commission took the following positions on legislation at its September meeting.

HB 4048 (Representative Martin Griffin) - bill would establish no-reason absentee ballots. On Second reading in the House. MWC supports.

HB 4447-4448 (Representative Rebekah Warren) - bill would allow different addresses for driver license and voting. In Senate Election and Oversight Committee. MWC supports.

HB 4564 (Representative Glenn Steil) - bill would mandate joint custody. In House Families and Children's Services Committee. MWC opposes.

HB 5054-57 (Representative Marie Donigan) - bills would establish the Sexual Assault Victims' Forensic Medical Intervention and Treatment Act. In Senate Judiciary Committee. MWC supports.

For more information go to www.michiganlegislature.org.

The Michigan Alliance Against Hate Crimes

The Michigan Alliance Against Hate Crimes (MIAAHC) is a statewide coalition of federal, state and local law enforcement agencies, civil rights organizations, community-based groups, educators and anti-violence advocates working to ensure a complete and effective response to hate crimes.

MIAAHC is committed to support victims of hate crimes and provide assistance to communities, organizations and groups seeking to establish effective means to identify, address and eliminate such acts of terrorism.

Hate crimes are acts motivated by prejudice and hatred. These acts affect the fundamental rights of the victim, as well as the group of which the victim is, or is perceived to be, a member. These acts of terrorism are designed to produce feelings of being violated, depersonalized, and isolated and deprive individuals of their sense of security and self-worth.

The work of the group consists of helping to develop local hate crime coordinating units to engage specific community partners in education and prevention initiatives and to monitor the law enforcement process; establish and train the community network; develop a victim support advocacy system; document and report hate crimes through a local coordinating unity; and develop a communication team. MIAAHC offers train-the trainers program specifically for law enforcement officers on hate crimes from the perspective of law enforcement, civil rights and victim support. For additional information, please contact one of the coordinators listed below.

The MIAAHC Hate Crime Coordinators are:
Michigan Department of Civil Rights (517) 335-3165
United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan (313) 226-9742

United States Attorney for the Western District of Michigan (616) 456-2404

Pay Issues



On May 27, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in the case of *Ledbetter v. Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co.* that a Title VII complaint under the Civil Rights Act of 1964 must be filed within 180 days of the first specific action that sets discriminatory pay. According to the National Women's Law Center, WomenWork! and the National Organization of Women, this ruling severely limits workers' ability to vindicate their rights.

The U.S. House has introduced H.R. 2831, the "Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2007" to reverse this decision. The U. S. Senate has introduced the "Fair Pay Restoration Act," S 1843.

The Institute for Women's Policy Research in partnership with the Nokomis Foundation issued in September 2007 "The Economic Status of Women In Michigan."

The report noted that the Composite Employment and Earnings for Michigan increased from a national rank of 33rd to 30th. In the Composite Social and Economic Autonomy Index Michigan stayed the same, at 25th in the national rank. The 2004 study used mostly 2002 data and the 2007 report used mostly 2005 data. Women's median annual earnings increase from \$30,700 in 2002 to \$32,600 in 2005.

For more information go to www.iwpr.org.

New Publications:

The Michigan Women's Commission is pleased to announce 2 new publications available on our website - www.michigan.gov/mdcr.

- 1) An up-to-date directory of women's organizations, contact information for over 600 organizations
- 2) Medical Records booklet, available in a printable format or to use to keep information on your computer

Check them out! We hope these publications will be useful for you!

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CALENDAR

October – Domestic Violence Awareness Month (www.ncadv.org) & Breast Cancer Awareness Month (www.cancer.org)

Oct. 26 - Michigan Women's Commission hosts Roundtable Meeting - 10 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in Lansing. For more information call Judy at (517) 241-2396 or karandjeffj@michigan.gov.

Nov. 13, Women Business Owners of Southeastern Michigan WBO ANNUAL DINNER
Speaker: Sabrina Adams, Publisher Zoe Life Publishing 734-332-9300 or visit www.wbo-mich.org.

Dec 1 - World AIDS Day (www.worldaidsday.org)

Dec. 5, 10:00 a.m., Lansing, 110 W. Michigan Ave. Michigan Women's Commission meeting. Call (517) 373-2884

For a complete calendar go to www.michigan.gov/mdcr - women's commission.

Mailing List Update

If your name or address needs to be changed on our newsletter mailing label, or if you receive duplicates, please mail or fax (517-335-1649) the correct information (along with your current label) to the address or fax number listed. You can also email us at MDCR-WomensComm@michigan.gov.